

Def. Doc. 2746
(Tōgō)

Exhibit No. _____

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR THE FAR EAST
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, et al.

-vs-

ARAKI Sadao, et al.

A F F I D A V I T

OKADA KEISUKE

Having first duly sworn an oath as on the attached sheet, in accordance with the procedure prevailing in my country, I hereby depose as follows:

1. I came to know Mr. Tōgō Shigenori around 1934, when I was Premier and he was Director of the European-Asiatic Bureau of the Foreign Ministry. Since then I have talked with Mr. Tōgō on various occasions, and exchanged views on various problems. Especially after he became Foreign Minister in the Tōjō Cabinet in October 1941 there was frequent contact between him and me directly and indirectly not only while he was Foreign Minister but even after he resigned from the ministership. In April 1945, when Mr. Tōgō was entering the Suzuki Cabinet, he called on me to explain his position and requested my opinion.

2. At the time of the London Naval Disarmament Conference of 1934-1935 I was Premier and Mr. Tōgō was Director of the European-Asiatic Bureau of the Foreign Ministry. I learned at that time from the officers concerned that Mr. Tōgō was opposed to the position of the Navy and carried on heated arguments with the Navy over such problems as the common upper limit, the abrogation of the Washington Treaty, and the exchange of information on naval ship-building.

3. Toward the end of October 1941, Foreign Minister Tōgō urged that, as the opinion of the Navy was unyielding and it was likely that a Japanese-American war would ensue if things were left alone, I as a veteran of the Navy should contribute my efforts promptly to moderate the opinion of the Navy. Thereupon, I immediately requested Admirals Kobayashi Seizō and Toyoda Teijirō to come to my house, and conferred with them. I do not remember the result.

4. I have long recognized the importance of diplomatic affairs, and it has been my belief that the choice of Foreign Minister was the most important next to that of Premier. Especially after the conclusion of the Tripartite Alliance in September 1940, it was my sincere desire to have a Foreign Minister who was a lover of peace and would be earnest in negotiations with the United States, in order that we might go through that critical period without becoming entangled in the war. After deliberation I came to the conclusion that Mr. Tōgō was the best, and I talked about it to my friends and acquaintances. Especially in October 1941, immediately before the establishment of the

Tōjō Cabinet, I told Lord Keeper Kido this. I recommended Mr. Tōgō because I had known that Mr. Tōgō, since the time when he was Director of the European-Asiatic Bureau, had entertained moderate opinions and favored international cooperation over such matters as European and American questions, the China question and the disarmament problem; that after he became Ambassador he had been opposed to the strengthening of the Anti-Commintern Pact or the Tripartite Alliance, even though he was stationed in Germany; and that after he had returned from the Soviet Union he had been keenly interested in the success of the Japanese-American negotiations. When the Tōjō Cabinet was organized, Mr. Tōgō insisted that he could not accept the post of Foreign Minister unless the new Cabinet would strive for the success of the Japanese-American negotiations. He resigned from the post on account of his opposition to the establishment of the Greater East Asia Ministry. Thereafter it was his sincere desire that the war should be terminated as soon as possible, and when the Suzuki Cabinet was formed, he contended strongly for the prompt ending of the war and entered the cabinet on that condition. These instances show how intense is Mr. Tōgō's aspiration for peace.

5. After Mr. Tōgō resigned from the Foreign Ministership in the autumn of 1942, he often related to me that the policy of war-direction of the Tōjō Cabinet was not proper and that therefore the continuation of the cabinet was not in the interest of the country nor favorable for the termination of the war.

O A T H

In accordance with my conscience I swear to tell the whole truth, withholding nothing and adding nothing.

Okada Keisuke (Seal)

On this 2nd day of January, 1947

At Tokyo

Deponent Okada Keisuke (seal)

I, Nishi Haruhiko, hereby certify that the above statement was sworn to by the deponent, who affixed his signature and seal thereto in the presence of this witness.

On the same date

At Tokyo

Witness: Nishi Haruhiko (seal)

Translation Certificate

I, Nishi Haruhiko, of the Defense, hereby certify that I am conversant with the English and Japanese languages, and that the foregoing is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a correct translation of the original document.

Nishi Haruhiko

Tokyo
2 January 1947